

To the Members of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The Directors of the Company respectfully present the following Report.

The present Library Building was opened for use on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February last. It took less than a year to build, including the ~~taking down~~ <sup>removal of</sup> the old houses on the lot of ground. The total cost of its erection, its furnishing, <sup>to</sup> fitting up, <sup>of the</sup> shelving and of the moving of the books, in fact of all that was necessary to put it in complete working order, and not only <sup>of</sup> these ~~matters~~ but <sup>of</sup> the laying out of the grounds, and <sup>new</sup> the external outlay on what pertained merely to ornament or decoration, not specially needed for Library purposes, has been about \$53,000, leaving \$2,000 or \$3,000 of the building fund unexpended. As the Building itself is fire proof, which ~~of course~~ added considerably to the expense of construction, - as the best artistic taste and the most skilful artisans have been employed in making it sightly as well as useful, - as the arrangement of the interior for its special purpose is not surpassed, if equalled in convenience and fitness, by any other Library in this country, it is generally conceded that no ~~such~~ <sup>similar</sup> building has ever been erected in this City ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> greater economy, nor, as will be seen from what has been above stated, in ~~so~~ <sup>less</sup> little time.

It has been the aim of the Directors both in the plan of the Library, and in the details of

49,350.11 paid.  
3,405.41 outstanding  
52,755.52 cost  
57,570.24 B.N.  
1,185.31 deficit







its working, to introduce and perfect such improvements as will render it more decisively what it was in its origin and traditions, an active and living institution; <sup>one</sup> of which Philadelphians may ~~well~~ be proud, as they are of the fame of its founder. While every facility in the use of the books is given to the members, our duty to the public, which ~~our~~ <sup>an</sup> exemption from taxation enforces, forbids the limitation of its usefulness to those who constitute the corporation itself. Hence the doors of the Library are open to all respectable <sup>persons</sup> citizens who desire to consult its collections within its walls, or to take out books, on terms which prescribe no unfair discrimination.

That the change of situation, and the knowledge that the public has gained of the really liberal spirit of our by-laws, have already produced a positive ~~effect~~ <sup>result</sup>, will be seen from the following statistics:

During the whole of the past year ending May 1. 1880, the number of persons visiting or using the Library has been 77.825

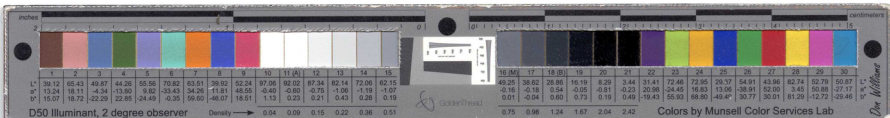
An account of the number of books taken out was only begun in October last. From that date to May 1, that number was 17.091

Now, distributing these figures into two separate periods, one, while the Library still remained on Fifth Street, and the other since its removal here the account stands thus:

Attendance and service at the old building from May 1. 1879 to Feby. 19. 1880.



Members





Members

Males 29.903

Females 9.292

39.195

Messengers for members

4.063

Visitors

Males 12.803

Females 1.353 14.156

57.414

No. of days, open

245

daily average

233.1

Books taken out from October 1. 1879  
to Feby. 19. 1880

11.074

daily average

94.6

Attendance and service at the new building  
from February 24 to April 30. 1880

Members

Males 6859

Females 5377 12.236

Messengers for members 1410

Visitors

Males 4743

Females 2022 6765

20.411

No. of days open 56

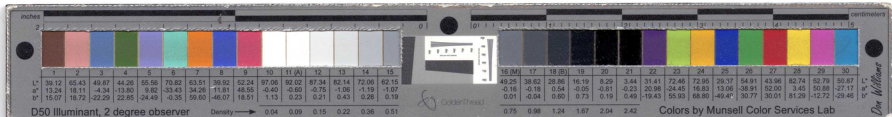
Daily average of visitors 364.4

An increase of 49 per cent.

Number of books taken out in the same period 6841

Daily average. 122.1

An increase of 30 per cent.





The greater ratio of increase in the number of

visitors over that of the books taken out is doubtless

321.42

15.803

14.126

1.383

34.414

34.2

1.383

Books taken out from October 1 1879

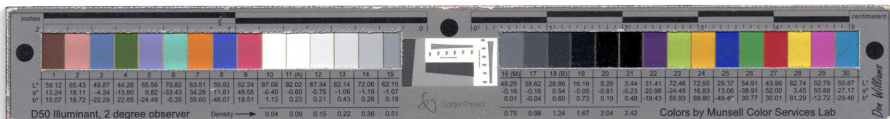
to April 30 1880

Attendance and service at the new building

from October 1 1879 to April 30 1880

14.126

1.383





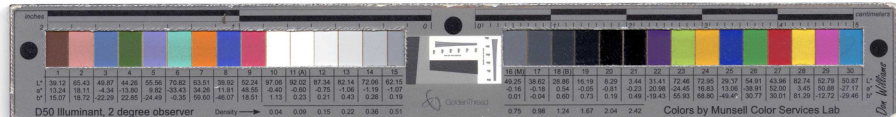
The greater ratio of increase in the number of visitors over that of the books taken out is doubtless due, to some extent, to more curiosity; but the latter may be taken as permanent.

These figures need no comment further than to say that the expectations expressed by the Directors in their last Annual Report have been fully justified.

The Directors are much gratified to <sup>be able to</sup> report with regard to their old building, that they have disposed of it for the present on very satisfactory terms. Negotiations had been pending, during the past summer and fall, for <sup>its</sup> sale of ~~the old building~~ to The Apprentices Library Company, for a price which was fixed at \$50,000. These negotiations fell through, not from any unwillingness on the part of the Managers of the Apprentices Library, but from their inability to raise the necessary funds. After the removal to the present building, the old one was offered for sale. One or two inquiries were made by possible purchasers, but the only serious one was by the American News Company, an <sup>important</sup> ~~very~~ large publishing Corporation, having its principal establishments in New York and Chicago, and with a very large Capital. This company manifested at first an inclination to purchase, <sup>and</sup> then substituted an offer to lease the building, for ten years, at a rent of \$4000, which was accepted, and the lease has been executed. They proposed and have begun alterations of the property costing a very considerable sum of money, which will add, in any event, greatly to its value. The advantage



of this arrangement, apart from the improvement  
in the booklets is that the Gilman Company will





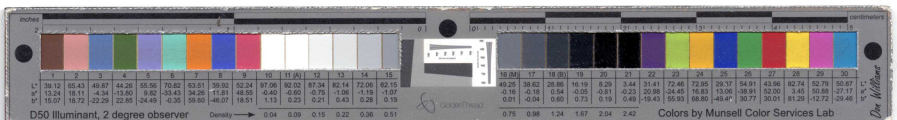
of this arrangement, apart from the improvement in the property, is that the Library Company will secure the almost certain increase of value of the ground at the end of the lease, with a net rent in the meantime of \$3000, this being more than could be produced by the investment of \$50,000, ~~which is fully~~ <sup>its full</sup> ~~the~~ present value.

It will not be improper to mention in this connection, a fact only discovered in the course of the present alterations, which discloses a peril in our former occupation of the old building, which had been unknown, and which shows that the removal was not ~~every~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~far~~ <sup>near</sup> too soon. Some years ago, in order to give greater light to the main hall, the centre of the second story was cut open in a square which will be remembered by all. Whether from original defect of construction, ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> from the shrinkage of the timber, it has been found that the ends of the joists on <sup>the</sup> Fifth Street side, in front of <sup>the</sup> building, and ~~from~~ <sup>of the</sup> corresponding joists on <sup>the</sup> opposite side of the opening, had slipped from <sup>their</sup> sockets, ~~on~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~either~~ <sup>each</sup> ~~side~~ <sup>end</sup>, and were only supported by the nails in the floor boards. In fact nothing sustained the flooring on these sides except its own adhesion, and these nails ~~which were driven through it into the joists.~~ Any sudden displacement of weight, or shock perhaps of a trifling character, might have sent the flooring down, and probably with it, part of the walls. Serious injury to the property and perhaps loss of life might have been thereby occasioned.

The financial affairs of the Library Company



Itself continue in a prosperous condition. Notwithstanding the unusual outlay of the first year



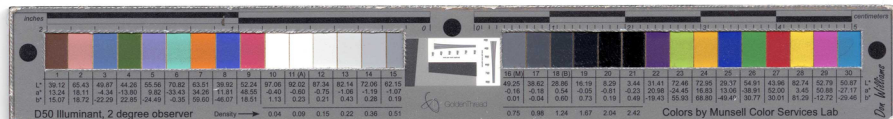


itself continue in a prosperous condition. Notwithstanding the unusual outlay of the first year incident to the removal and the consequent reorganization of the Library, the income has not fallen short of the expenses. The Company has just been informed of a bequest under the Will of the late Mr. Persifor Frager, of \$1000. A bequest was also made by the late Dr. King of the large and valuable library of the late Hon. Edward King to which he had succeeded. The will of Dr. King, however, being now the subject of litigation, it is not possible at present to say whether eventually the Company will <sup>derive</sup> ~~take~~ any benefit under it. The addition of the rent of the old building to the resources of the Company will add largely to the usefulness of the Library, in the purchase of books and in facilitating its operations.

The Directors have thought it not inexpedient to spend a comparatively small sum in laying out the grounds attached to the Building, in grass and flowers, in such a manner as to make it an attractive and agreeable spectacle to the eyes of the public, <sup>especially</sup> not excluding those who from poverty or otherwise are unable to use its collections of books. In a large city where there are so many who never have a chance to escape from the heat and weariness of summer, those who possess large open spaces of ground, should not grudge the ~~small sum~~ <sup>trifling expenditure</sup> necessary to make them a pleasure instead of an offence. ~~to all.~~ And most of all is it due from us to whom the public has been so generous.



the coat of books and binding this year  
at the library amounts to \$4198.73





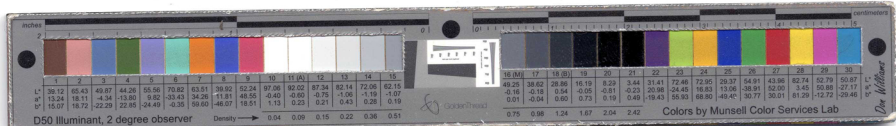
The cost of books and binding this year  
 at the Library amounts to \$4198.73  
 Salaries and <sup>ordinary and exceptional</sup> expenses, ~~to~~ 5235.89  
 The number of books purchased has been 1394

The affairs of the Ridgway Branch are  
 not yet in such condition as they were hoped  
 to be. They have, however, sensibly improved. It  
 is expected <sup>that</sup> with the <sup>advance</sup> gradual ~~upward~~ movement  
 of rents, from which its revenue is almost ex-  
 clusively derived, the Directors may be able next  
 year to make a better report.

All of which is respectfully submitted

By order of the Board.

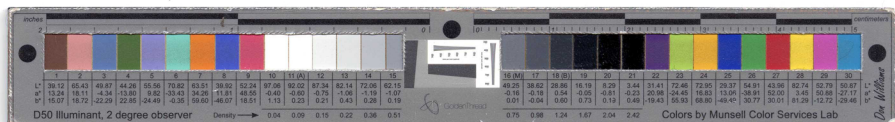
Henry Pawle  
 Secretary



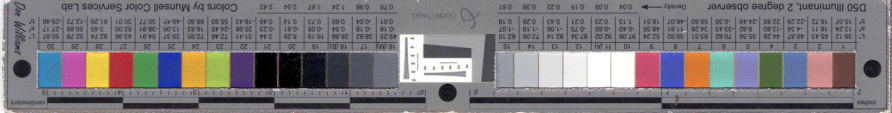












Annual  
Report  
of the  
Director  
1879-80.  
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